



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Global gathering of world's largest wilderness movement opens in Salamanca, Spain: Wednesday 2 October**

*Salamanca, 1 October 2013:* WILD10 (the 10<sup>th</sup> World Wilderness Congress) - the world's largest wilderness conservation movement, opens its doors on 2 October, in Salamanca, Spain. WILD10 is the fruit of collaboration by many organisations and experts, facilitated by the WILD Foundation, to bring together more than 1000 conservation scientists, practitioners, government representatives and tribal leaders. At the Congress they will discuss the issues threatening existing wilderness, look at the opportunities for rewilding and learn about solutions which will help 'make the world a wilder place'.

#### **A track record of practical conservation**

The World Wilderness Congress, which first met in South Africa in 1977, has a 35-year track record of practical conservation by bringing together governments, businesses, and local groups to integrate the needs of human communities with the protection of wild nature. Measures include helping create the concept that resulted in the World Bank's Global Environmental Facility, and launching the Marine Wilderness Concept for a new type of Marine Protected Area.

In welcoming people to the Congress, WILD President Vance Martin said "WILD10 is about wilderness protection and integrating human and nature's needs. Wild nature is NOT a luxury, it is essential to health and prosperity. At Wild10 scientists, artists, policy-makers, landowners, conservationists, community and corporate leaders will be working together to build a better future for the planet".

Two of the main events are the Global Intergovernmental Wilderness Forum 2 – 3 October, and the Global Gathering: 4 – 6 October

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### **Global Intergovernmental Wilderness Forum: Wednesday, 2 – Thursday 3 October**

*Place: Colegio Arzobispado Fonseca, 4 Calle Fonseca, Salamanca*

This unique forum is designed to forge understanding between government representatives and indigenous leaders by bringing them together in an informal setting to create an agenda to conserve nature, through transboundary conservation and public-private partnerships.

It works through bringing together people from different constituencies: in the session on climate change, a Spanish government official will be dialoging with a representative of the indigenous nomadic tribes from Iran.

Key participants: *Tashka Yawanawa*, Chief of the Yawanawa People, Brazil; *Miguel Aymerich Huyghues-Despointes*, Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Environment; *Taghi Farvar*, Union of Indigenous Nomadic Tribes of Iran; Brazil; *Melissa George*, Wulgurukaba People, Australia; *Nzioki Wa Makau*, High Court Justice, Kenya.

**Weblink:** <http://wild10.org/en/program/intergovernmental-forum-on-wilderness>

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**Global Gathering focusing on Planet, People and Prosperity: Friday, 4 October to Sunday, 6 October. Place: Palacio Congresos y Exposiciones de Castilla y Leon, Salamanca**

*Programme highlights:*

**4 October:**

- **Wildlife Returning to Europe** – facts and figures on the spectacular comeback of wildlife in Europe. Identifying key wilderness areas and showing how to protect and expand them can support European society.
- **A Vision for a Wilder Europe** – Saving Our Wilderness, Rewilding Nature and Allowing Wildlife to Return.
- **Swiss National Park** – 100 years of successful rewilding at the heart of the Alps with positive impacts for society.
- **The Globe – Nature Needs Half** – using a science-based, practical vision to protect and inter-connect at least half of the planet, land and water, to support life on earth.
- **The Lands and Waters** – introducing large-scale, successful land conservation efforts in Africa, Arctic and Australia; the importance of Marine Protected Areas, how they are growing and evolving, and the role of traditional communities as stewards of large marine areas.
- **The Climate** – combating and mitigating climate change through conserving wild nature.

**5 October**

- **Indigenous and community lands and seas** – best practice examples from Australia, US, Latin America, Canada, New Zealand; plus creating a new partnership between conservation, ecotourism. How the Sami community is challenging threats to ‘Europe’s Alaska’.
- **New constituencies for a wilder world** – how charismatic leaders like Simon Jackson (Spirit Bear Youth Coalition) can inspire new generations and leaders for conservation.
- **Wilder Scotland** – how to build constituencies for the long-term support of wild land and seas.
- **Wild Cities** - Integrating wild nature into urban areas with citizens’ support.
- **Coalition WILD** – a new global initiative of rising young leaders to create a wilder world.
- **Conservation, culture and wilderness** – how art and music can mobilise support for a wilder world.
- **Evening concert:** Flamenco, Music from Nature and Baba Brinkman, bringing Hip Hop to the Conservation movement.

**6 October**

- **Keynote speaker: author George Monbiot** – Should we restore the European Megafauna?
- **Private Lands** – How private landholders can become custodians of wild nature at the same time as making a good living.
- **Investments, Business & Nature** – case studies on how business and economic development can benefit wild nature.
- **Local Communities** – examples of successful alliances between local people and wild lands.
- **From species to spaces** – learning from successful examples in China, Thailand, South Africa and Mozambique.
- **The role of primary forests around the world** in stabilising and maintaining a healthy and prosperous human society.

<http://wild10.org/en/program/the-global-gathering>

**WILD10 bringing music, art and cultural events to the streets of Salamanca**

An important element of WWCs has always been to show the role culture plays as an equal - and crucial – partner with nature in creating a healthy and prosperous wilder world. This year WILD10 demonstrates this through an extensive and very rich cultural programme covering theatre, music, cinema, art and photography, open to delegates and the general public alike.

### Interviews

There will be an opportunity to interview key conservation leaders: *Chief Tashka Yawanawa* from the Amazon and other traditional leaders; *Dr Sylvia Earle* – “*Her Deepness*”, legendary marine explorer and Founder of Mission Blue; *Simon Jackson* - Spirit Bear Youth Coalition of six million members; *Geoff Dalglish* – ‘Earth Pilgrim’; *Baba Brinkman* – rapper on the environment; *Dr Russell Mittermeier* – President of Conservation International; *HE Razan Khalifa al Mubarak* – Secretary General, General Environment Agency, Abu Dhabi; *George Monbiot* – journalist and author of *Feral*; *Bittu Saghal* - founding editor of *Sanctuary Asia*, India's premier wildlife and ecology magazine; *Asher Jay*, who uses art and design to communicate conservation solutions; and many others.

Also taking place

**8 – 10 October: Global Forum:** <http://wild10.org/en/program/the-global-forum>

**4 – 10 October: Tent WILD:** over 70 exhibitors: <http://wild10.org/en/program/the-tent>

### Contact details

#### a) WILD10 Media Relations Staff

*Mar Ramirez:* Media Director: [mar@wild10.org](mailto:mar@wild10.org) ☎+34 687 715 311

*Susan Bruce:* Interviews and Press conferences schedule and Press Room Director [susan@wild.org](mailto:susan@wild.org)

*Daphne Davies:* International Media Coordinator, [daphne@wild10.org](mailto:daphne@wild10.org), +447770230251

*Silvia Casellas:* Europe Media Correspondents in Spain Coordinator, [scasellas@iternatura.es](mailto:scasellas@iternatura.es)

#### b) WEB

All information about WILD10 is updated daily on the Congress website: [www.wild10.org](http://www.wild10.org)

The Global Gathering will be livestreamed accessed through the website. [www.wild10.org](http://www.wild10.org),

The weblink will be sent to the media beforehand.

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Examples of WILD10's work over the last 35 years include:

- Helped create the concept that resulted in the World Bank's Global Environmental Facility which has distributed US\$20 billion to biodiversity and environmental projects since 1990.
- Initiated and facilitated the first international agreement on wilderness - between Canada, USA and Mexico.
- Pioneered the integration and implementation of native and traditional knowledge and cultural wisdom into 'main stream' conservation.
- Introduced the science-based vision of 'Nature Needs Half,' to protect and interconnect at least 50% of the earth's wild areas.
- Launched the Marine Wilderness Concept for a new type of Marine Protected Area.